

# The Rising Star

Swarthmore-Rutledge School

*Home of the Panther Cubs!*

Volume 14, Issue 2

October 2007

OCTOBER 2007

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents,

I am happy to report that we have experienced a wonderful start to the school year! Our students and teachers have settled into the comfortable routines that allow them to enjoy teaching and learning.

A ten-member committee of SRS teachers, support staff and parents received training from a certified **Olweus Bully Prevention** consultant last year. The members of this committee also conducted "turn around" training for the rest of the SRS staff. This year the SRS staff will implement this program school-wide. We will have a special student kickoff assembly on Thursday, October 18 to introduce our students to the program and a parent kickoff on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to talk to parents and interested community members about the program.

This program is one of the Blueprint Violence Prevention Programs and is acknowledged as an evidence and research approach to the prevention of bullying with young people. The program will provide all members of the SRS community with a unified and systematic approach to bullying behavior in all its forms that supports the victim, gives the bully/bullies a clear message that they must stop and empowers bystanders to follow the steps that they have been trained to follow when observing bullying.

We held our annual **Back to School Picnic** on Thursday, September 20, 2007. Parents, staff and students enjoyed the chance to eat pizza and socialize informally together. As usual, the talent show was the highlight of the evening. One thing is for sure: SRS students aren't bashful and are natural entertainers. Thanks to everyone who made this event such a success, especially Beth Resweber and Kate Dickey for coordinating this event and Bridget Welsh and Eric McElroy for organizing the talent show.

SRS was recently notified that we will receive a \$1,386 5-County Arts Fund grant that we will use to fund our third grade African Dance program. We thank Debora Pierce-Hoffman for all her efforts in coordinating this grant for the third year in a row. We also learned that we will

receive a \$1,500 Arts-In-Education grant that we will use to fund a Walnut Street Theater residency in the spring with our primary students.

For the third year, Neumann College, Elwyn Institute, and the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District will work collaboratively to provide training and support to improve the quality of education for our students, especially those students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. This program is known as the **NEW-S project**. With the increasing incidence of autism in our student population, SRS teachers benefit from research based techniques and strategies that help them to individualize their instructional programs to meet the needs of their students.

The results of the **Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)** administered in the spring of 2007 were released recently. When ninety percent or more of a grade level is performing at the advanced and/or proficient level in Math and Reading, a school community has a lot to celebrate!

Grade	Math Assessment			
	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
5 <sup>th</sup>	72.0%	22.7%	2.7%	2.7%
4 <sup>th</sup>	75.7%	19.4%	1.9%	2.9%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	51.2%	42.9%	6.0%	0%

Grade	Reading Assessment			
	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
5 <sup>th</sup>	64.0%	29.3%	4.0%	2.7%
4 <sup>th</sup>	64.1%	27.2%	5.8%	2.9%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	56.0%	38.1%	3.6%	2.4%

**Absence and Tardiness.** The best way to assure your children's academic success is to send them to school daily. Daily attendance is required except when a child is ill or has a family emergency. Parents are asked to call the attendance line at 610-544-5702 by 9:00 a.m. each day that the child is ill and will not be attending school. We also ask that students arrive on time to school each day. Students are tardy after 8:45 a.m. When a student is tardy they not only lose instructional time, but disrupt the instructional time of others. Please work with us to assure your child is at school every day.

Hope to see you all at the SRS Halloween parade at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31, 2007.

Gary Davis

Dear SRS Community,

We hope you've had time to take a breath after a very busy September! The leaves on the ground remind us that fall is upon us and we are looking forward to the opportunities a new school year brings. Hopefully you've had a chance to attend some or all of the events the first month of school had to offer. A big thank you for a wonderful job to Kate Dickey and Beth Resweber for co-chairing the Back to School Picnic, as well as our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reps, Linnette Reilly, Virginia Thompson and May Lynn Rossi for coordinating the bake sale.

We were very encouraged with the turn out at our first Home and School meeting. In this edition of the Rising Star you will find a summary of the minutes from the meeting to help keep you informed. We were pleased to have two speakers at our meeting. Dan Natterman from Aramark gave an informative presentation on our new food service. If you still have questions regarding the new service you can contact Dan at (610) 892-3470 x-2151. Mark Linkins, Director of Curriculum for our school district, addressed implementing an after school foreign language program. The program at SRS is still in the planning stages but we hope to have classes in place by next semester.

Our two largest fundraisers of the year are both happening this month. The Sally Foster Gift Wrap Sale runs from September 20<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>; and SRS directories will soon be available for purchase. Your participation in these fundraisers supports our Dimensions Programs, Guest Speakers, and Poetry to name a few. Also, keep an eye out for our new SRS Spirit Wear order forms. Items available will include t-shirts, backpacks, lanyards, car magnets, silicone bracelets and crocs charms.

Through your continued support we were able to fund a major anti-bullying curriculum initiative last year. This year marks Phase 2 of the implementation with critical parent involvement. Join us for an important evening on October 25 at 7:00pm in the SRS auditorium to learn more.

You will always find useful information on our website at [www.srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org) and we encourage you to keep up to date with school happenings by book marking the website on your computer.

On Back to School Night, you found a short H&S survey on your child's desk. We are sorting through your responses and suggestions and hope to fill you in on the results shortly. As always, we welcome you to join us at our next SRS H&S meeting to be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. We will again have guest speakers in attendance - Maria Klumpp, School Psychologist and Randie Gallagher, Gifted Coordinator – who will be giving an overview of the gifted program at SRS. We also look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Festival on October 19<sup>th</sup>, a fun evening including ice cream, making scarecrows, a book swap and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade pumpkin sale.

We wish you a lovely fall season,

Beth DeBruyn ([beth@bethandchris.com](mailto:beth@bethandchris.com))

Linda Martin ([lindadmartin@aol.com](mailto:lindadmartin@aol.com))

Co-Presidents, SRS Home & School Association

## **Home and School Monthly Meeting**

Gary Davis, as Principal of SRS, reported that the school year is off to a smooth start for teachers and kids. SRS hired 12 new staff - 10 new assistants and 2 new faculty, both in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There is also now a full time inclusion teacher for kids with special needs.

We are into our second year for the bully prevention program; the student kickoff will be October 18 and the parent kickoff on October 25. Dr. Davis is asking for a core group of parents to form a committee to think of ways to get parents out and involved for the event on October 25. If you are interested in helping out, please let Dr. Davis know.

SRS continues to have great after school programs available with Hands on Science and Artworks. We are also hoping to add a foreign language after school program as well, and are looking for parents or adults interested in being teachers or the onsite coordinator. If you are interested, email Mark at [mlinkins@wssd.org](mailto:mlinkins@wssd.org)

Dan Natterman of Aramark is the WSSD Food Services Director. He spoke about the new cafeteria options and thanked everyone for being patient while we go through changes.

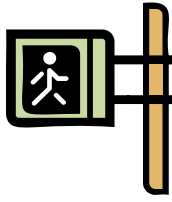
Did you know that there is a breakfast program available from the time the first bus arrives at approximately 8:15 a.m. until about 15 minutes after the last bus arrives? The cost is \$1.

Beginning on October 17, Aramark will be switching to a point of sale meal card where each child will be assigned a 4-digit PIN number. The meal card will be available to purchase meals and no more than two snacks at a time. Aramark is encouraging the purchase now of only weekly tickets (\$11.25) as they prepare for the conversion. There will be an internet site to support the program so that you can see the balance of your account.

PAGE is a new organization in the district promoting gifted education. There will be a program on October 17 at 7 p.m. in the SRS library in which Mark Linkins, WSSD Director of Curriculum, will present on gifted education in our district.

The Home and School Association is sponsoring a lot of neat things coming up:

- Keep an eye out for new equipment on the playground.
- There will be a satisfaction survey sent around for Home and School – please provide your input as we are looking for ways to encourage greater parent participation in HSA
- Please save newspapers and old clothes for the scarecrow building activity at the Fall Festival.
- The Sally Foster fundraiser begins on September 20 and is the single-biggest school fundraiser for SRS. You can even order through the website after the official close of the fundraiser and have the money directed to the school.
- If you have a chance, check out the new teachers' lounge which was vastly improved with funds and manpower provided by HSA. Special thanks to Stacy Clements who spearheaded the improvements!
- Spirit Wear for SRS is coming soon! There will be T-shirts, lanyards, backpacks, bracelets with the four cornerstones, car magnet, and Croc charms.



## **October 3<sup>rd</sup> is International Walk to School Day!**

SRS will be joining schools across the nation on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> in celebrating Kids Walk to School Day. Coordinated in conjunction with the International Walk to School Day, this event builds support for creating Safe Routes to School and implementing Walking School Bus Programs in Pennsylvania schools.

We should encourage our kids to walk to school in order to get more exercise and spend less time in school buses breathing diesel fumes. In recent decades, the number of kids walking to school has plummeted and the incidence of childhood obesity has increased substantially. Recent studies have also shown that the insides of school buses have very poor air quality. Walking students arrive at school more alert and ready to learn than if they are driven.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, start your kid's day off right with the most important meal. Have a healthy breakfast before the walk to school – so they can stay awake and alert all through the day! Let's have a great walking turnout on October 3<sup>rd</sup>!

### **CyberSmart! Curriculum**

District librarians will be implementing a new curriculum this year that will teach our students to enjoy the internet safely. This curriculum is organized into five units, each teaching an important facet of Internet use. Students will learn about their social, legal, and ethical responsibilities when they use the Internet. They will be taught how to identify commercial messages online and how to protect their privacy. In addition, they will learn how to use the internet effectively for research purposes. Further, they will gain an understanding about the past, present and future of the internet and cyberspace.

### **SRS Parent Bully Prevention Kickoff**

At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 25, 2007 SRS will host a Parent Bully Prevention Kickoff in the SRS auditorium. You will be given an overview of our Olweus Bully Prevention Program and learn why it is critical that we focus on this problem. We will share data about the extent of bullying at SRS based on an anonymous bully survey that was administered last spring to students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

The involvement of SRS parents has always been a critical factor in the success of our school. This is a major school initiative; we need to work together as a school community to reduce the problem of bullying at our school. Please join us on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Corporate Fundraising -

You can help us earn money without buying anything you wouldn't ordinarily.

Here's what to do:

- Register your Genuardi's Club Card with escrip. [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) Be sure to designate that the money goes to SRS Home and School. Our number is 152103668 or search by name.
- Register a credit card with escrip and H & S earns especially when you dine out or stay in hotels.
- Send in your Acme receipts in a clearly marked envelope to school with your child. Last year this simple task earned H & S \$568.
- Send in BoxTops for Education. For each one that is sent in H & S earns \$0.10. It really does add up. We earned \$502.41 in 2006/2007 and have already made \$370 for the 2007/08 calendar year.
- Before you shop online, go to [www.boxtops4education](http://www.boxtops4education) or [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) (you need to be registered) then link to the store where you want to shop. H & S can earn a percentage of your purchase.

Contact Jodi Dawes 610-543-0336 or [jodidawes@comcast.net](mailto:jodidawes@comcast.net) with any questions.

## SRS has Spirit!

The SRS Home & School Association donated nearly 200 drawstring backpacks to the US Soccer Foundation Passback Program. "The Passback Program is a joint effort between the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Eurosport and Major League Soccer to help meet the soccer uniform and equipment needs of all communities, regardless of income, gender or location. Since its inception, the program has grown enormously and thousands of pieces of equipment have been collected and distributed to schools, clubs and youth organizations across the nation. From a small school in Zimbabwe to an after-school program in inner-city New York, Passback gear has found its way to all corners of the globe..." Way to play!

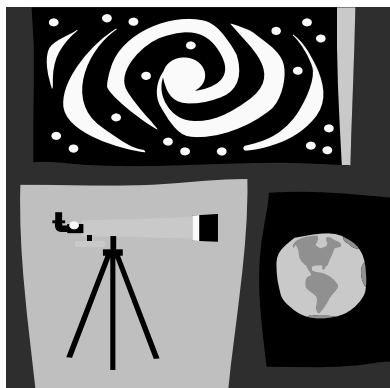
Look for SRS School Spirit items, including drawstring backpacks, to appear this month.



Is your child gifted? Learn about our district's accommodations and share ideas with other parents. The WSSD chapter of Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education meets at 7:00 on the third Wednesday of every month at the Helen Kate Furness Library. For more information or to be put on our email list, contact Lauren McKinney at [lauren@mcschwartz.org](mailto:lauren@mcschwartz.org) or 610-541-0125.

## Hands on Science at SRS

### By Linnette Reilly



Now beginning its fourth year at SRS, the Hands on Science (HOS) program is once again being offered to all students as an after school enrichment program. This program is inquiry-based to encourage students from first to fifth grade to ask questions and explore answers using hands-on materials. Objectives include helping children develop skills (and maybe talents) using the scientific processes of observation, measurement, testing and peer discussion.

Physics of Color and Light is the focus of the fall session which began on October 2. Classes will run for 8 weeks and are grouped according to grade levels. Class size is limited to 11 students and participants are chosen by lottery if there are more students interested than the number of spaces available. Children on a waiting list from the previous session will be given first priority for the upcoming session. There are a limited number of financial scholarships available each session so all interested students are encouraged to enter the lottery.

Adult Leaders can be parents, college students or professional teachers and do not have to have a science background or previous teaching experience. Before teaching a class, all adult leaders are required to complete a training provided by a HOS-certified trainer. Monitors are also used in the classroom to assist the Adult Leader and children during the classes and to supervise the children during snack time. No training is necessary to Monitor a class.

Architecture and Engineering is the focus of our winter session, which runs January 14– March 3, 2008. We expect this to be a popular topic and plan to run 6 classes this session. There will be 2 first grade classes, two 2/3-grade classes, and two 4/5-grade classes. The spring session runs March 31–May 26, 2008 and will explore the Physics of Sound and Flight.

Linnette Reilly, an SRS parent, is the Wallingford-Swarthmore area's HOS-certified trainer. Any adult interested in finding out more about teaching this program in the winter or spring is encouraged to contact her at 610-876-7260 or [reilly.4@verizon.net](mailto:reilly.4@verizon.net). SRS guidance counselor, Kathy Gemberling should be contacted for information regarding financial scholarships. General Information about HOS at SRS may be viewed on the website at [srskids.org](http://srskids.org). Paula De Rosa is the Home & School chairperson for Hands On Science and she can be reached at [paula@derosahome.com](mailto:paula@derosahome.com).

## Some Little Known Facts...

### DID YOU KNOW . . .

**A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.**

**A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.**

**A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.**

**A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.**

**A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.**

**A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.**



## TCDN Policy

## EMERGENCY AND INCLEMENT CLOSING INFORMATION



## INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS

In the event of severe weather conditions, TCDN will follow the Wallingford Swarthmore School District (WSSD) in determining whether or not to open/close TCDN.

If the School District **does not open for the day**, TCDN will not open.

If the School District **opens two hours late**, every attempt will be made to have the morning TCDN programs open by 8:30am.

Every attempt will be made to get information available by 6:00am (see ways to be notified at the bottom of this page).

If the School District **closes early or closes at 3:30 canceling their after school activities**, the After School Clubs will not open. All Explorers (Kindergarten) will need to be picked up at the same time as the WSSD closing time. The Preschool will close one hour after the WSSD closing time. This will allow time for older children to be picked up at WSSD before picking up the youngest children. If children remain at any of the programs past the closing time, and parents have not been in touch with staff to explain the delay, staff will contact your emergency contacts. If you know that you will not be able to get to TCDN on time, please set up for your emergency contacts to pick up your child(ren) on time. For the safety of the families and staff, every attempt will be made to close TCDN programs as early as possible.

## Kitchen Corner

### Pumpkin Waffles with Maple Walnut Apples

From Food Network Kitchens

#### Waffles:

- 1 cup cake flour
- 1/4 cup wheat germ
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon fine salt
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1/4 cup melted shortening (transfat-free)
- 1 large egg
- 1 large egg white

#### Topping:

- 2 to 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 crisp apples, peeled and sliced thinly
- 1/4 cup pure maple syrup
- 1/2 cup toasted walnuts

**Special equipment:** standard 4 x 4-inch waffle iron  
For the waffles: Preheat a waffle iron to medium heat.

Whisk the flour, wheat germ, sugar, baking powder, spice and salt together in a large bowl.

Beat together the milk, pumpkin, melted butter, and melted shortening, egg and egg white, in a large measuring cup. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and pour in the wet ingredients. Whisk together to make a slightly lumpy batter.

**For the topping:** Melt the butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add the apples and let cook until slightly browned, but still crisp, about 4 minutes. Add the maple syrup and walnuts and toss to coat. Pour and spread about 1 cup batter into the waffle iron. Cover and cook until crisp and a rich golden brown, about 7 minutes. (Try to resist the temptation to open the waffle iron too soon. Steam will puff out of the iron while the waffles cook, when this stops the waffle is cooked.) Repeat with the remaining batter. Serve hot with the apples.



## Interview with Helen Mangelsdorf/Teacher Helen By Emma Pierce-Hoffman

1. **Where did you grow up?**  
Massachusetts, Chicago and Swarthmore.
2. **Do you have any siblings? If so, what are their names?**  
Yes. I have a brother Paul and 2 sisters, Sarah and Martha.
3. **How did you get interested in art?**

My mother says I never took a nap. She and my brother needed naps, so she put me into my father's study. I had a drawer of art supplies there. I guess I've been doing art since I was about 2 or 3.

4. **How did you get interested in teaching?**  
I played school. When I played school, there was homework and we had lunch in the cafeteria. My siblings were my students.
5. **What college did you go to?**  
University of Chicago for one year - I didn't like it, so I transferred to Antioch College in Ohio. After college, I went to art school and got a 4 year certificate from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. After that, I got a Master's degree in Art Education from Tyler Art School at Temple University.
6. **What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
Garden, go to yoga, spend time with friends, play music and paint.
7. **How long have you been an art teacher?**  
I taught at Haverford School for 5 years, and I've been teaching here for 11.
8. **What is your favorite art project to do with kids?**  
That's a hard question to answer. I like doing the mini portraits of famous Pennsylvanians. And the Pennsylvania German plates.
9. **What do you like best about teaching at SRS?**  
The kids are very smart and really enjoy art. And I have a connection with the community, because I grew up here.
10. **Do you have any pets?**  
Yes. I have 2 cats. One is named Coale. He is very smart, probably the smartest cat I've ever had. He's black and white and likes to go in the laundry basket. He raised my other cat, Moses. Moses is very handsome and he likes to run. We found him in the bushes.
11. **Do you have kids? What are their names and ages?**  
I have one daughter, Anna. She is in college.



### The Rising Star

*Published monthly*

*Deadlines: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month*

*Submit materials to:*

*Robin Boyer*

*Rdgenter@aol.com*

### Swarthmore-Rutledge School

100 College Avenue  
Swarthmore, PA 19081  
610-544-5700

Attendance Line:  
610-544-5702

### Check out our Website!

<http://wssd.org/>  
(click on SRS)

*A*

*A proud member of Wallingford-  
Swarthmore  
School District*



### Dates to Remember

\*\* PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL ENTRIES FOR THE RISING STAR ARE DUE IN BY THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH.

- \*10/10: Home & School Assc. Mtg (7:30pm)
- \*10/19: Fall Festival (6-8pm)
- \*10/31: Halloween Parade, (2 pm)
- \*11/6: NO SCHOOL – In Service Day

## Calling All Reporters!

Once again, young reporters are needed to interview a staff member or community member of SRS for this year's editions of the Rising Star. Students can do the interviews alone or with a friend. Please send me an email ([rdgenter@aol.com](mailto:rdgenter@aol.com)), call me (215-327-7866), or send me a note via backpack express. Notes can be sent by Bryan Boyer (Ms. Benson's class). Remember the deadline for entries is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

